

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00435 210703Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 104983

P 210547Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2196

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0435

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN CASE

REF: STATE 12505 (EXDIS)

1. THERE FOLLOW TEXTS OF LETTERS WHICH SECRETARY MIGHT
CONSIDER SENDING TO FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND PRIMIN
SOUVANNA PHOUMA.

2. BEGIN TEXT TO FONMIN:

EXCELLENCY:

WHEN WE MET IN NEW YORK LAST SEPTEMBER IT WAS WITH
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MR. EMMET KAY, THE CIVILIAN PILOT
EMPLOYED BY AIR AMERICA, HAD FINALLY BEEN RELEASED FROM
CAPTIVITY BY THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT.

I DID NOT KNOW AT THAT TIME, NOR PERHAPS DID YOU,
THAT ANOTHER AMERICAN CIVILIAN HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN
CAPTIVE BY FORCES OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT. I REFER,
OF COURSE, TO CHARLES DEAN, THE 24-YEAR OLD AMERICAN
TOURIST WHO WAS DETAINED TOGETHER WITH AN AUSTRALIAN
COMPANION, NEIL SHARMAN, ON THE MEKONG RIVER AT PAK
HINBOUN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

AS AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HAS ALREADY INFORMED YOU

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00435 210703Z

IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, IT IS KNOWN THAT MESSRS. DEAN

AND SHARMAN WERE MOVED SOON AFTER THEIR DETENTION TO A PRISON CAMP IN THE AREA OF KHAM KEUT, WHERE THEY WERE HELD UNTIL MID-DECEMBER. MOST RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THEIR BEING TRANSPORTED ON DECEMBER 14--STILL IN THE CUSTODY OF TROOPS OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT--EASTWARD TOWARD THE BORDER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

I AM INFORMED THAT, DESPITE THE WEALTH OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION WHICH HAS BEEN FURNISHED TO YOU REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE TWO YOUNG MEN, THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE RECEIVED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE HAS BEEN A DENIAL BY THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE AT VIENTIANE OF ANY KNOWLEDGE ON THE PART OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

I AM AT A LOSS, EXCELLENCY, TO UNDERSTAND THE CONDUCT OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IN THIS MATTER. I WISH TO UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS AND BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THIS MATTER IS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF BOTH MEN. I SHALL WELCOME YOUR EXCELLENCY'S PROMPT INTERVENTION TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A RESULT.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION. END TEXT TO FONMIN.

3. BEGIN TEXT TO PRIMIN:

HIGHNESS:

AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HAS INFORMED ME OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU REGARDING THE YOUNG AMERICAN TOURIST, CHARLES DEAN, WHO WAS DETAINED BY TROOPS OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TOGETHER WITH AN AUSTRALIAN COMPANION, NEIL SHARMAN. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE INTEREST YOU HAVE DISPLAYED IN THE FATE OF THESE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00435 210703Z

TWO YOUNG MEN.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NOT YET SEEN FIT TO RELEASE THEM, A STEP WHICH, AS I AM SURE YOUR HIGHNESS WILL AGREE, IS ALREADY LONG OVERDUE.

I WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME YOUR INTERVENTION WITH LEADERS OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ACHIEVE THE IM-

MEDIATE RELEASE OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN, A GOAL TO
WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE.

PLEASE ACCEPT, HIGHNESS, THE ASSURANCES OF MY
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT TO PRIMIN.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI00435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750022-0277
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750132/aaaabcdo.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 12505
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEAN CASE
TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA, AS, US, LPF, (DEAN, CHARLES M), (SHARMAN, NEIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006